

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 BEIRUT 15411 301349Z

50

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-10 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 USIE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-02 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 CPR-01 NEAE-00 SAM-01

/063 W

----- 016120

O R 301310Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2049

INFO USUN 2799

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

UNCLAS BEIRUT 15411

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, LE, US

SUBJECT: LEBANESE-AMERICAN RELATIONS

1. FIRST ITEM ON NEWS ON 11 A.M. NEWSCAST OF RADIO
LEBANON DEC 30 FOLLOWS IN INFORMAL ENGLISH TRANSLATION
FROM ARABIC: QUOTE

2. HIS EXCELLENCY PRESIDENT SULEIMAN FRANGIE RECEIVED
AT 10 A.M. THIS MORNING THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
AND OVERSEAS LEBANESE, MR. PHILIPPE TAQLA, WHO MADE THE
FOLLOWING STATEMENT AFTER THE MEETING:

3. AFTER THE OFFICIAL AND WRITTEN APOLOGY THAT THE
AMERICAN AMBASSADOR TO LEBANON HAD OFFERED IN HIS OWN
NAME AND IN THE NAME OF HIS COUNTRY FOR THE INCIDENT THAT
TOOK PLACE AT NEW YORK AIRPORT AT THE TIME OF THE ARRIVAL
OF THE LEBANESE DELEGATION TO THE UNITED NATIONS HEADED
BY H.E. THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC, AND AFTER
THE LETTER WHICH THE AMERICAN SECRETARY OF STATE
HAD SENT TO THE LEBANESE FOREIGN MINISTER ON NOVEMBER 14
AND WHICH CONTAINED AN EXPRESSION OF THE AMERICAN GOVERN-
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 BEIRUT 15411 301349Z

MENT'S DEEP REGRET FOR WHAT HAD HAPPENED AND A PROMISE TO

UNDERTAKE AN INVESTIGATION TO DISCOVER THE REASONS FOR THE ERROR THAT HAD LED TO THE OCCURENCE OF THE INCIDENT -- AFTER ALL THIS, THE LEBANESE FOREIGN MINISTER RECEIVED A LETTER DATED DECEMBER 10 FROM THE AMERICAN SECRETARY OF STATE INFORMING HIM THAT THE INVESTIGATION HE HAD PROMISED HAD BEEN CARRIED OUT, IN EFFECT CONFIRMED THE OCCURRENCE OF THAT ERROR, AND REVEALED THE EMPLOYEES RESPONSIBLE AND THAT THE NECESSARY PUNISHMENTS HAD BEEN EFFECTED AGAINST THOSE EMPLOYEES. THE AMERICAN SECRETARY OF STATE ALSO ADDED IN HIS ABOVE-MENTIONED LETTER THAT THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT COULD NOT POSSIBLY UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES PERMIT ANY INSULT TO A MAJOR VISITOR LIKE HIS EXCELLENCY PRESIDENT SULEIMAN FRANGIE. ON DECEMBER 28, HIS EXCELLENCY THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC, MR. SULEIMAN FRANGIE, RECEIVED A HANDWRITTEN AND PERSONAL LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, MR. GERALD FORD, CONTAINING CONFIRMATION OF THE CONTENTS OF THE TWO LETTERS OF HIS SECRETARY OF STATE DATED NOVEMBER 14 AND DECEMBER 10 AS WELL AS THE STATEMENT OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES THAT HIS COUNTRY WILL CONTINUE TO ATTACH THE GREATEST IMPORTANCE TO THE CONTINUATION OF WARMTH AND FRIENDSHIP IN ITS RELATIONS WITH LEBANON. IN THIS LETTER, THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES ADDED THE FOLLOWING WORDS: "THE CONVERGENCE OF THE TWO HOLIDAYS OF CHRISTMAS AND AL-ADHA HAS EXPRESSED THE SPECIAL FAVOR THAT LEBANON ENJOYS IN BRINGING CHRISTIANS AND MUSLIMS TOGETHER IN ONE NATION. WE HOPE THAT THIS SPIRIT OF HARMONIOUS RELATIONS WILL STRENGTHEN OUR EFFORTS DURING THE NEW YEAR TO ARRIVE AT THE FINAL, JUST AND LASTING SOLUTION FOR ALL THE COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES OF THE MIDDLE EAST. I FULLY UNDERSTAND THE MEANING OF THIS FOR LEBANON, AND YOU MAY BE ASSURED, YOUR EXCELLENCY, OF MY DETERMINATION TO DO EVERYTHING I CAN TO HELP ACHIEVE THE GOAL FOR WHICH YOU AND I ARE STRIVING."

4. THE FOREIGN MINISTER, MR. PHILIPPE TAQLA, ADDED "AS A CONSEQUENCE, THE INCIDENT MUST BE CONSIDERED CLOSED." END QUOTE.
GODLEY

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, NEWS MEDIA COMMENTS, DIPLOMATIC COMMUNICATIONS, CUSTOMS INSPECTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 30 DEC 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974BEIRUT15411
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740377-0097
From: BEIRUT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t1974125/aaaaaeu.tel
Line Count: 97
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MorefiRH
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04 OCT 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <04 OCT 2002 by ReddocGW>; APPROVED <27 DEC 2002 by MorefiRH>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LEBANESE-AMERICAN RELATIONS
TAGS: PFOR, LE, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005